(c) The Ministry has, so far, granted 46 forest clearances for mining of iron-ore under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in the State of Goa. However, only 23 iron-ore mines are operating after obtaining the approval to their renewal proposals at present. In respect of remaining 23 mines, the approvals granted earlier have since been expired with effect from 27.11.2007.

(d) and (e) As per the information received from the State Government, three mines have been rejected renewal permissions recently by the Director of mines and Geology, Government of Goa. Revocation of none of them has been received till date.

(f) The environmentalists are primarily raising two issues against the mining activities in the State of Goa- (i) permitting mining within one km area from the boundary of the national park/sanctuary, and (ii) granting environmental clearance to a mining lease involving both forest and non-forest areas.

(g) The Ministry does not maintain a record of such information.

(h) The Iron-ore produced in the State of Goa is of low grade having Fe content ranging between 58% and 62%, which does not have ready market in the Country. The iron ore, therefore, is exported to other countries after resorting to beneficiation. Goa exports 60% of India's Iron-Ore. During the year 2008, about 46 million tonnes of iron-ore was exported from the country.

Impact of climate change on agriculture

1862. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to assess the impact of climate change on agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has undertaken various studies on impacts, adaptation and vulnerability of Indian agriculture to climate change under the aegis of a National Network Project. The major findings include:

Temperature rise studies conducted so far indicate that rise in temperature will have effect crops, horticulture, water resources, livestock and fisheries sectors. Studies indicate that rise in winter temperature will have negative impacts on wheat yield. The apple cultivation may shift to higher elevation due to rise in temperature. Heat stress will have negative affect on milk yield of livestock. Increased surface sea temperature may cause migration of fish and changes in breeding habitat.